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3M Innovative Properties Company
Phone: 651/733-1189 (direct)
Fax: 651/736-7421
Serial No.: CPA of 09/425,636
Our Reference: 55197US002

Date: May 23, 2002

Total number of pages: 9

OFFICIAL

Enclosed is a **Preliminary Amendment** for the following patent application:

Application of: Douglas Quong

CPA of Serial Number: 09/425,636

Filed: March 6, 2002

Title: Active Material Within Hydrogel Microbeads

Please transmit the **Preliminary Amendment** to the following Examiner:

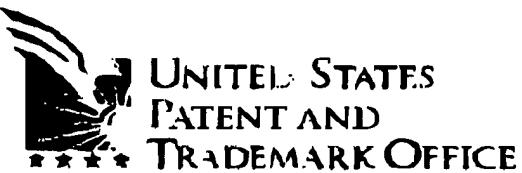
Examiner: H. Nguyen

Group Art Unit: 1617

Examiner Nguyen, this is the Preliminary Amendment that was originally faxed on March 29, 2002 (see copies of fax confirmations).

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<p>Group Art Unit: 1617 Patent Number: 11, Registration Title: Active Material Within H3 drogic Metabolites Filed: March 6, 2001 CRA or Serial Number: 09/123,000 Applicant(s): Loughlin Group Priority is a Preliminary Amendment for the following parent application: Date: March 29, 2002 Total number of pages: 6 CRA Registration: 351976/000 Serial No.: 11,019,013/000 Fax: 651/326-7141 351976/000 (Priority) Other or Related Prosecution (Priority) (Other): (Any C) 1,000 Telephone Number: 1/703 872 9306 Washington, D.C. 20231 Comments for the Examiner To the Director of Telefax Destination The Office will be pleased to copy this fax to the following: If you are not the intended recipient, please do not read, copy, or distribute this fax. Instead, contact the sender, or copy this document to the intended recipient. This fax contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the USPTO. It is the property of the USPTO, is loaned to you, and must be returned to the USPTO when no longer needed. Received from 651 737 9136 at 03/29/02 08:38:51 PM [Eastern Standard Time]</p>		

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Group Art Unit: 1617
Examiner: H. Nguyen
PLEASE transmit the Preliminary Amendment to the following Examiner:
Title: Active Material Within Hydrogel Microbeads
Filed: March 6, 2002
CPA or Serial Number: 09/423,636
Application of: Douglas Quong
Enclosed is a Preliminary Amendment for the following Patent Application:

Date: March 29, 2002
Total number of pages: 6

Telex from: Lucy C. Wei
Office of Intellectual Property Counsel
3M Innovative Properties Company
Phone: 651/733-1189 (direct)
Fax: 651/736-7421
Serial No.: 09/423,636
Our Reference: SS197US002
Application for Patent
3M Innovative Properties Company
3M Telex number: 1/703 872 9306

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PATENT
Docket No.: 55197US002IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Douglas Quong

Serial No.: 09/425,636

Filed: October 22, 1999

CPA Filed: March 6, 2002

Group Art Unit: 1617

Examiner: Nguyen, H.

For: ACTIVE MATERIAL WITHIN HYDROGEL MICROBEADS

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JULY 16 2002

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENTCommissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

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Reconsideration of the application is requested in view of the following amendments and remarks.

In the Claims

Please amend Claim 1 to read as follows:

C1

1. (twice amended) A method of delivering and releasing active material comprising the steps of:
 - a) providing hydrogel microbeads each comprising a plurality of active material droplets entrained within a hydrophilic matrix that is cured non-chemically at temperatures in the range of about 10°C to about 40°C or that is cured chemically, said microbeads having an average diameter between about 1 μm to about 1000 μm;
 - b) creating a suspension of a plurality of said microbeads;

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on the date shown below:

Date: March 29, 2002 Signed: Lucy C. Weiss
Lucy C. Weiss, Reg. No. 32,834